**Grade 7 Geography**

Globalization Unit Project

October 2011

Imagine a tropical island on the Equator that is roughly 20 km wide and 30 km long. The northern two-thirds of the island are hilly and covered with a thick primary jungle. To the south, as the jungle gets thinner, the hills become flat, and the southern third of the island then becomes farmland. The south coast of the island is covered with fine, white sand, clear water, and beautiful coral reefs. On the coast, with farms on one side and beaches on the other, are five villages of around 3,000 people each.

The main crops are rice and coconuts, but fishing and a rich supply of natural fruits and vegetables, as well as the breeding of chickens, pigs, and water buffaloes means that the island is self-sufficient. They don't have very much extra, but they have enough. For luxuries like coffee, tea, sugar and chocolate, a ship comes to the island once every week.

Inside the jungle are waterfalls and caves, as well as several species of wild animals. There are also two hill tribes of around 300 people each that live in the jungle. Traditionally, the jungle is shared, but recognised to belong to the hill tribes. The villagers, the farmers and the two hill tribes all have different cultural, religious and linguistic traditions and beliefs, but they live together peacefully. They do not have much contact with each other.

Some families are richer, some are poorer, but all of the islanders are happy and more or less equal. They have no electricity, but have clean water and basic health care, including traditional medicine that comes from plants in the jungle. Their houses and fuel come from wood and bamboo in the jungle. They make decisions as a community, and the family is very important to them. The Village Elders are highly respected, and continually work together to improve their community. All of the islanders take responsibility for caring for each other.

The children, like all of the islanders, live a very traditional life. Although they have no formal school, they learn from a very young age how to fish, plant rice, carry water, look after animals and to cook. When they take breaks from working, they sit and listen to the Village Elders. They study their cultural traditions, beliefs and ceremonies. In their spare moments they run, play football, explore their island, and visit with each other.

One day, the Village and Hill Tribe Elders meet some foreigners who came with the weekly boat. After the meeting, the foreigners get back on the boat and promise to return in a week's time. The next morning, the Village and Hill Tribe Elders call a general meeting for all the islanders. The Grand Chief stands up, and there is quiet in the meeting. He announces that he has been approached by a multinational company called Macdonald's, and that this company wants to construct a small airport on the island. The Grand Chief then explains that the Elders were divided on what to do. He listed some, but not all, of the advantages and disadvantages.

On the one hand, 15% of the farmland will have to be destroyed to build the airport, and another 5% destroyed to build planned roads. The islanders might have to change their way of life, and might feel some effects of the airport in their cultural lives. There will also be negative effects on the environment. On the other hand, Macdonald's argues that tourism will bring money for electricity. This will be valuable, as it gets dark, and the islanders would be able to get refrigeration for food, lights for the evening, and radios and TVs for information. Tourism would also bring in more goods to the island, and the airport would create jobs. Macdonald's offers to buy the farmers' land at good price.

There are other advantages and disadvantages, both short-term and long-term.

It will be you and your group's job to think of others.

Each person in your group must choose one role: Village Elder, owner of local restaurant, Jungle Tribe Elder, Farmer, Villager. Your group must decide this together respectfully.

Your role can be quite open (for example a rich villager, a poor villager, a young farmer, an old farmer, a child, etc.), but you must explain who you are. You will be thinking and acting as your character, so your thoughts and opinions must be realistic. Don't forget how important your community is to you.

**Group Work:**

As a group you must think of two short-term and two long-term effects of the airport on the island for each of the following categories: 1) Resources and environment 2) Culture and language 3) Economy and jobs 4) Life in general 5) Other

These effects will be presented in poster form. Posters must be done neatly, colourfully and with effective contrast. You do **NOT** need to draw pictures, so just concentrate on the information.

Your group will also have to agree if you will want the airport or not, and why. Even if you do not agree with your group-mates, you must come to a decision. You will also have a chance to individually show your own ideas. Your group will be presenting the poster and then your choice about the airport together, so all the group members must be prepared to present. Your group work and participation are very important.

**Individual Work:**

You will have to do the above work from the point of view of your role character. You should present your information neatly on a piece of A3 paper. You will be marked on the ideas, neatness, colour and contrast, but do NOT need pictures. Concentrate on the information.

On a separate sheet of paper, you will have to answer the following questions:

Who will benefit the most from the airport coming to the island? How? Why? Give details and examples and use the information from your charts (250 – 300 words)

As you present either individually or in groups, you must use 'supply' and 'demand' when explaining at least **four** effects. You should also use the other globalization vocabulary we have studied.

**GROUP WORK**

**Your Name:**

**Your Group’s Name:**

**Your Role/Character:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Short Term Effects** | **Long Term Effects** |
| **Resources and Environment** |  |  |
| **Culture and Language** |  |  |
| **Economy** |  |  |
| **Life in General** |  |  |
| **Other** |  |  |

Does your group want to have the airport or not? Why? (Your group's answer should have at least four reasons why or why not.

**INDIVIDUAL WORK**

**Your Name:**

**Your Group’s Name:**

**Your Role/Character:**

**Brief Description of your character (30-50 words)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Short Term Effects** | **Long Term Effects** |
| **Resources and Environment** | **Cutting trees: because I want to build many things and for have more space I need to cut trees.** | **Pollution: because all things I will build will be many pollution.** |
| **Culture and Language** | **Change culture: because tourist will came and I want to learnabout other cultures** |  |
| **Economy** |  |  |
| **Life in General** |  |  |
| **Other** |  |  |

Does your role character want to have the airport come to the island or not? Why? Why not? You should list four reasons to support your answer. Explain with detail and examples, and use short-term and long-term effects to support your answer (100 – 150 words).